

New Claims 42-43 are directed to Applicants' Figure 7 embodiment and includes the limitation of a focusing means for forming a point source of light between a fixed end and the free end of the scanning mechanism. Such focusing means, which promotes improved tracking of the laser in the cantilever by adjusting the optical magnification of the focusing means to match the mechanical magnification of the scanner is believed to be clearly patentably distinguishing.

New Claims 44-45 are directed to a beam steering atomic force microscope with a non-collimated light beam incident on the steering lens. Such structure is believed patentably distinguishing and not taught by the references.

New Claims 46-47 are directed to an atomic microscope with a lens, positionally decoupled from the scanner, in the path of the reflected beam. This positionally decoupled lens, especially when positioned as stated in claim 47, is likewise believed patentably distinguishing over the prior art of record.

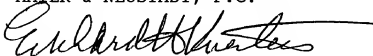
New Claim 48 stats that the steering lens is mounted on the interior of the scanning tube and thus results in a simplified and stable mounting of the steering lens. New Claim 48 is likewise believed to be patentably distinguishing.

Accordingly, in view of the new claims submitted herewith, and the cancellation of the previously pending claims, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to

be moot. Examination and allowance of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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